

**COUNCIL
27 FEBRUARY 2020**

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

TITLE OF REPORT: SENIOR MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT OF: COUNCILLOR MARTIN STEARS-HANDSCOMB AND SERVICE DIRECTOR:
RESOURCES

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

CURRENT COUNCIL PRIORITY: RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT

NEW COUNCIL PRIORITY: ENABLE AN ENTERPRISING AND CO-OPERATIVE ECONOMY

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 For Council to consider changes to the posts of Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. That the Council indicates whether to proceed with the approach taking into account the Employment Committee's recommendations and as outlined within the part 2 report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 To effect savings to support the Councils objective of reducing costs.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Retaining the current structure has been considered, but is not the preferred option given the forecast level of savings that the Council needs to make.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

5.1 Informal consultation has taken place by the Leader of the Council, with the two members of staff directly affected, the Deputy Leader and Executive Members. Other relevant Members have been consulted including the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Cabinet.

5.2 The Employment Committee will consider this report at a meeting on 27th February 2020, and provide their recommendation to Council.

- 5.3 This is a staffing matter which would normally fall within the remit of the Head of Paid Service, however as they may be affected by the proposal the Council has been supported by Michelle Kirk the Director at the East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) and Kerry Shorrocks (Corporate Human Resources Manager).

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1 Based on current forecasts the Council is estimating that it will have a significant budget shortfall from 2021/22 onwards. By a planned use of reserves, the Council will need to deliver savings of £1.35m over a 3- year period up to the end of 2023/24. However, there is significant uncertainty over funding beyond 2020/21, and will be subject to changes to a new funding formula, changes to Business Rates retention and a Business Rates reset. There is expected to be more certainty during 2020/21. The opportunity for further cost efficiencies is expected to be limited, and the majority of savings will need to be achieved through service reductions or, where possible, income generation.
- 7.2 Given the current and expected financial and business imperatives that the Council faces, adjustments to the very senior structure provides an opportunity to make significant savings recovered over a short period which will contribute to the council's savings targets without directly affecting front line services.
- 7.3 The Council's Reorganisation Policy sets out the approach to restructure arrangements and includes a strong emphasis on seeking to avoid compulsory redundancies. The Council's approach to voluntary redundancy arrangements are set out in the policy.
- 7.4 The authorisation arrangements for terminating employment are set out on the Constitution and, with the exception of Statutory Officers (Head of Paid Service, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer) such matters fall to the Head of Paid Service (subject to the Officer Employment rule and relevant appeal procedures delegated to the Employment Appeals Committee. However, as the Head of Paid service may be affected the decision is reserved to Full Council.
- 7.5 In addition, the Council's adopted Pay Policy Statement requires Council to approve any related settlement package where the total cost to the Council exceeds £100,000 (which includes both severance payment and employer's liability for pension strain or other costs). In the circumstance of those cases referred to below the total contractual payments including employer costs may exceed £100,000.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 These are set out in the part 2 report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. These are covered in full in the part 2 report.

9.2 The Council is bound by the terms of individual contracts with employees and employment law. The proposed course of action set out in this report accords with the Council's employment policies and those contracts. The settlement agreement manages any subsequent liabilities that the Council may have in terms of claims and is a prudent step to take.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 These are covered in the part 2 report.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are risks associated with any organisational change and it is a matter of weighing up any short- term risk (in terms of knowledge/skills loss) with the longer term financial and organisational opportunities that such a change offers.

11.2 The provision of settlement agreements manages any potential future claims against the Council. The proposed course of action manages the risks in an effective manner and facilitates the circumstances for a restructure to progress swiftly.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2 There are no equalities implications arising from this report. This proposal has been managed in line with HR policies and processes.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and "go local" requirements do not apply to this report.

14. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14.1. These are detailed in the part 2 report.

15. APPENDICES

15.1 None.

16. CONTACT OFFICERS

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17. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 17.1. Revenue Budget Report 2020/21- Council 6th February 2020
- 17.2. Pay Policy Statement 2020-21.